



OCTOBER 2014



SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COUNCIL

This Month in the Council



The citizens of San Diego count on us to be prepared in the event of a disaster. We as the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Council and support services proudly accept this challenge

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Each month at the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Council (SDHDC), disaster preparedness professionals come together for in-depth, passionate dialogue about a range of topics. Here's a glimpse at some of the discussion in September:

- ◆ GERM Commission held a meeting regarding Ebola and the upcoming flu season.
- ◆ The California Hospital Association (CHA) Conference is September 22-24, 2014. The preconference workshop is on Monday and the conference continues until Wednesday.
- ◆ George Sweet, IAHSS representative to SDHDC has retired. The hospital security group will be contacted for a replacement.

Trainings and Drills

October 16, 2014 10:16 am
Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill: Drop, Cover and Hold.
<http://www.shakeout.org/california>

October 16 & 17, 2014
Palomar Hospital Mass Casualty Decontamination Training for First Receivers

October 30, 2014 7:30 am—4:30 pm
San Diego's 9th Annual Emergency Care Summit, Shaetzel Center Great Hall.

Statewide Medical Health Full Scale Exercise
Thursday, November 20, 2014



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This Month's Focus

Extreme Weather in Our City

Submitted by Judi Vincent, Kindred Hospital

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 was a hot and muggy day. It was the tail end of summer so hot and muggy was expected, although this day was creating more of San Diego sauna than usual. The air conditioning system was over worked to maintain a temperate environment for our patients, their loved ones and our staff. The evening was approaching with the promise of relief from the 100 degree temperatures. Larger than life thunderclouds could be seen on the horizon and hope that rain was in the forecast to provide a break to the sweat inducing weather was in the minds of many.

The day of regular business activity was coming to an end with night shift coming in to take the reins. Then it hit us. The lights went out. But before the last lumen extinguished, our Respiratory Therapists were up and at 'em! On any given day, storm or no storm, once the lights flicker our RT teams are on their feet heading toward our vent patients. They only needed a fraction of a second to register what was happening before they moved into action. At Kindred Hospital San Diego, our Respiratory team understands the hardships experienced by patients who require mechanical ventilator support. Our goal is to help our patients breathe on their own again and regain their independence - even on this wild and stormy day.

It was crazy windy outside the hospital. Lightening struck our parking lot twice. The electricity went out and our generator powered on. Outside our doors, gusting winds beat on our windows, trees were tumbled to the ground, and debris was everywhere. It lasted only moments, twenty in all, but that was enough to reduce our patio furniture to shreds, tear down surrounding fences, and drop a tree on top of a car in the parking lot.

It wasn't until after the excitement was over that everyone realized what had happened. As San Diegans, we are not used to these kinds of extreme storms. But as Kindred employees, there was never an interruption to service.....everything was just fine.

